

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A protective device for a field apparatus, comprising:
a first lateral plate and a second lateral plate, each having a top end and a bottom end, the first lateral plate and the second lateral plate being opposingly situated to mutually support each other in an A-shaped structure, the top ends being coupled together by at least one coupling device substantially at the apex of the A-shaped structure and the bottom ends being coupled together by a fastening assembly that restrains the rending of the A-shaped structure by a force generated from debris striking the first or the second lateral plate, each first and second lateral plate having a handle positioned within proximity to the top end by which the A-shaped structure can be collapsed for storage; and

a transmission line having a distal end and a proximal end, the transmission line comprising a tube of electrically conducting material surrounding a central conductor held in place by an insulator, the conducting material surrounding the central conductor at the proximal end.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) [[The]] A protective device of Claim 2 for a field apparatus, further comprising:

a first lateral plate and a second lateral plate, each having a top end and a bottom end, the first lateral plate and the second lateral plate being opposingly situated to mutually support each other in an A-shaped structure, the top ends being coupled together by at least one coupling device substantially at the apex of the A-shaped structure and the bottom ends being coupled together by a fastening assembly that restrains the rending of the A-shaped structure by a force generated from debris striking the first or the second lateral plate, each first and second lateral

plate having a handle positioned within proximity to the top end by which the A-shaped structure can be collapsed for storage;

a transmission line having a distal end and a proximal end, the transmission line comprising a tube of electrically conducting material surrounding a central conductor held in place by an insulator, the conducting material surrounding the central conductor at the proximal end; and

a device for transmitting and receiving radio waves, the device for transmitting and receiving radio waves being electrically coupled to the central conductor of the transmission line at the proximal end, the distal end of the transmission line being coupled to an electromagnetic field apparatus being protected by the protective device.

4. (Currently amended) [[The]] A protective device of Claim 1 for a field apparatus, further comprising:

a first lateral plate and a second lateral plate, each having a top end and a bottom end, the first lateral plate and the second lateral plate being opposingly situated to mutually support each other in an A-shaped structure, the top ends being coupled together by at least one coupling device substantially at the apex of the A-shaped structure and the bottom ends being coupled together by a fastening assembly that restrains the rending of the A-shaped structure by a force generated from debris striking the first or the second lateral plate, each first and second lateral plate having a handle positioned within proximity to the top end by which the A-shaped structure can be collapsed for storage; and

means for transmitting and receiving radio waves.

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5. (Currently amended) [[The]] A protective device of Claim 1 for a field apparatus, further comprising:

a first lateral plate and a second lateral plate, each having a top end and a bottom end, the first lateral plate and the second lateral plate being opposingly situated to mutually support each other in an A-shaped structure, the top ends being coupled together by at least one coupling device substantially at the apex of the A-shaped structure and the bottom ends being coupled together by a fastening assembly that restrains the rending of the A-shaped structure by a force generated from debris striking the first or the second lateral plate, each first and second lateral plate having a handle positioned within proximity to the top end by which the A-shaped structure can be collapsed for storage, wherein the fastening assembly includes at least one elongated flexible fastener.

6-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) [[The]] A method of Claim 12 for using a protective device for a field apparatus, further comprising:

placing a field apparatus within proximity to a blast site;
covering the field apparatus with a protective device that comprises a first lateral plate and a second lateral plate, each having a top end and a bottom end, the first lateral plate and the second lateral plate being opposingly situated to mutually support each other in an A-shaped structure, the top ends being coupled together by at least one coupling device substantially at the apex of the A-shaped structure and the bottom ends being coupled together by a fastening assembly that restrains the rending of the A-shaped structure by a force generated from debris striking the first or the second lateral plate, each first and second lateral plate having a handle positioned within proximity to the top end by which the A-shaped structure can be collapsed for storage, wherein the field apparatus includes an electromagnetic field apparatus;

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electrically coupling the electromagnetic field apparatus to a transmission line at a distal end, the transmission line having a distal end and a proximal end, the transmission line comprising a tube of electrically conducting material surrounding a central conductor held in place by an insulator, the conducting material surrounding the central conductor at the proximal end; and [[,]]

electrically coupling a device for transmitting and receiving radio waves to the central conductor of the transmission line at the proximal end.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) [[The]] A protective device system of Claim 14, further comprising:

a first lateral plate and a second lateral plate, each having a top end and a bottom end, the first lateral plate and the second lateral plate being opposingly situated to mutually support each other in an A-shaped structure, the top ends being coupled together by at least one coupling device substantially at the apex of the A-shaped structure and the bottom ends being coupled together by a fastening assembly that restrains the rending of the A-shaped structure by a force generated from debris striking the first or the second lateral plate, each first and second lateral plate having a handle positioned within proximity to the top end by which the A-shaped structure can be collapsed for storage;

an electromagnetic field apparatus for receiving and transmitting information to initiate a blasting process; and

a transmission line having a distal end and a proximal end, the transmission line comprising a tube of electrically conducting material surrounding a central conductor held in place by an insulator, the conducting material surrounding the central conductor at the proximal end.

16. (Currently amended) [[The]] A protective device system of Claim 15, further comprising:

a first lateral plate and a second lateral plate, each having a top end and a bottom end, the first lateral plate and the second lateral plate being opposingly situated to mutually support each other in an A-shaped structure, the top ends being coupled together by at least one coupling device substantially at the apex of the A-shaped structure and the bottom ends being coupled together by a fastening assembly that restrains the rending of the A-shaped structure by a force generated from debris striking the first or the second lateral plate, each first and second lateral plate having a handle positioned within proximity to the top end by which the A-shaped structure can be collapsed for storage;

an electromagnetic field apparatus for receiving and transmitting information to initiate a blasting process;

a transmission line having a distal end and a proximal end, the transmission line comprising a tube of electrically conducting material surrounding a central conductor held in place by an insulator, the conducting material surrounding the central conductor at the proximal end; and

a device for transmitting and receiving radio waves, the device for transmitting and receiving radio waves being electrically coupled to the central conductor of the transmission line at the proximal end, the distal end of the transmission line being coupled to an electromagnetic field apparatus being protected by the protective device.